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PATENTS

#7/A
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)
Edward S. Ellis et al.) Art Unit 1764
Serial No. 09/553,374) Before the Examiner
Filed: April 20, 2000) J. Johnson

**PRODUCTION OF LOW SULFUR/
LOW AROMATICS DISTILLATES**

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

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JAN 28 2002
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the First Office Action (Paper No. 5) dated July 17, 2001. Please enter the following amendment and remarks. A version showing the amendments made is attached hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 8.

Please replace claim 1 with the following amended claim 1.

1. A multi stage process for hydrodesulfurizing and hydrogenating a distillate feedstock having a sulfur content greater than about 3,000 wppm, which process comprises:

a) reacting said feedstream in a first hydrodesulfurization stage in the presence of a hydrogen-containing treat gas, said first hydrotreating stage containing one or more reaction zones, each reaction zone operated at hydrodesulfurizing conditions and in the presence of a